

Public Comment on the Klamath Falls 2014 and 2015 Exceptional Event EPA Concurrence Request

Comment #1:

Hello Ms. Sakata, my name is (b) (6) and I am a resident of the Klamath Falls area. I live in the County so I am subject to many different rules and regulations than our neighbors to the South, California. One regulation that myself and all my neighbors, County and City have, is we get to pay for the particulate that will come drifting in to Oregon from California during times of low inversion and large forest fires. Any winds emanating from the South East to the South West and blowing North brings a tremendous amount of pollution to the Klamath Basin. We get to be punished for something that has NOTHING to do with our use of firewood. The majority of residents in this area are good, law abiding people that do their best to keep the air as clean as possible, but when the fires start, we ARE living in a "Basin" and the wind currents tend to always be at us. When I studied the images from the Weather Satellites over the past several years, I noticed the wind patterns were circular in the Basin area. They came at us from all directions and settled here for weeks. I know this is bad for those that have respiratory conditions, in fact everyone knows this. But when it is an act of nature, I don't see why the residents should have to pay for it. Fires from lightning strikes, some vehicle accidents and acts of nature, I do NOT count human carelessness in this, tend to give us an unfair disadvantage. I am always willing to cut back on the use of wood for the sake of those suffering as are all of my neighbors, but those of us on a fixed income, we have a hard time keeping up with the rising cost of other heating methods. Thank you for the time you spent reading this, I hope it helps you understand our situation,

(b) (6)

Citizen, Klamath Falls

DEQ response:

DEQ appreciates the comment from (b) (6). The purpose of the Exceptional Event request document is to request any wildfire impacts to be excluded, such as those from California, that could have affected the monitoring data if they result in violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. DEQ acknowledges the hard work local citizens in Klamath Falls have undertaken to lower PM2.5 levels through various control measures such as woodstove curtailment.

The comment provided does not dispute the facts of the demonstration presented to EPA.